

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 9-25, with the following amended paragraph:

A preferred method according to an embodiment of the present invention is illustrated as a block diagram in Figure 3. The preferred method 300 includes first through third steps, 302, 304, and 306. In the first step 302, a set of input values are provided. The input values may include the rack height 102, a set of components to be placed in a particular rack, and, for each component in the set of components, a height, a weight, and a weight distribution. In the second step 304, a placement of the components is determined according to constraints. The constraints may include not allowing a top height of a component to exceed a rack height, ensuring that each of the components is placed once and only once, and ensuring that none of the slots, [[204A..204J]]
104A..104J, is occupied by more than one component. In the third step 306, the placement of the components is evaluated according to an objective. The objective may be, for example, to obtain a minimum height for a center of gravity. Other examples of possible objectives include placing penalties on soft constraints and attempting to minimize the total penalties, or maximizing the space around a particular component, such as where the component generates significant heat. As yet another example, it may be desired to minimize the number of free slots so that the design is contiguous as possible.